



Quarterly Report to United Way of Monroe County and Steering Committee
October 2008

II. Awareness: Enhance the awareness of the restorative practices among service personnel and the general community.

The Active Balanced Community Website continues to be maintained and updated by Wendy Harless, through a sub-contract under the community impact funding. The year-to-date number of unique visitors include:

| Number of Unique Website Visitors Per Month | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> |
| January | 102 | 77 | 141 | 189 | July | 85 | 84 | 96 | 224 |
| February | 91 | 83 | 85 | 181 | August | 60 | 89 | 124 | 172 |
| March | 89 | 103 | 127 | 276 | September | 64 | 79 | 215 | 185 |
| April | 105 | 107 | 126 | 214 | October | 74 | 83 | 247 | * |
| May | 95 | 68 | 45 | 162 | November | 63 | 114 | 216 | |
| June | 125 | 61 | 91 | 199 | December | 68 | 104 | 142 | |
| YTD Total | 607 | 499 | 615 | 1,221 | Total | 1,021 | 1,052 | 1,655 | 1,802 |

* In October, SEMCA moved to a new server. They are working on a unique visitor count.

Community Events. The Monroe County Prosecutor coordinated with Law Enforcement at the Bedford Trade Fair to provide educational materials regarding victims services, drug identification, and misuse of prescription drugs.

Newspaper Article. On Sunday, May 25, 2008, an article entitled “The ABC’s of Juvenile Treatment” was featured in the MONROE EVENING NEWS. An editorial, “Juvenile Justice: ABC is Paying Off” followed on June 2, 2008.

“I Pledged” Campaign. Cheryl Beck chaired the planning committee for this campaign. The Monroe County ISD partnered with the 2008 project in sponsoring the identification holders that were given to all who pledged to drive responsibly – obeying the speed limit, avoiding distractions, wearing their seat belts, and not riding with anyone who has been drinking. Drawings for \$20 gas cards were held at each event.

The percentage of students who pledged in 2008 was 68% – up from 64% and 65% from the two previous years. The campaign seems to be well received by the schools and students.

| School | Number of Pledges – 2005 | Number of Pledges – 2006 | Number of Graduates – 2007 | Number of Pledges – 2007 | Number of Graduates – 2008 | Number of Pledges – 2008 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Airport | N/A | 125 64% | 211 | 137 65% | 220 | 180 81% |
| Bedford | 169 | 189 46% | 433 | 190 44% | 420 | 179 42% |
| Dundee | N/A | 87 85% | 122 | 87 72% | 100 | 95 95% |
| Ida | N/A | 82 67% | 117 | 112 96% | 125 | 119 95% |
| Jefferson | 112 | 142 72% | 185 | 155 84% | 180 | 164 91% |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|------|
| Mason | N/A | 82 | 80% | 128 | 124 | 97% | 109 | 105 | 96% |
| Monroe | 203 | 282 | 66% | 421 | 236 | 56% | 423 | 216 | 51% |
| Orchard | N/A | 26 | 57% | 50 | 24 | 48% | 50 | 18 | 36% |
| SMCC | N/A | 85* | 85% | 109 | 101 | 94% | 96 | 96 | 100% |
| Summerfield | N/A | 49 | 81% | 61 | 53 | 87% | 69 | 49 | 72% |
| Whiteford | N/A | 47 | 76% | 57 | N/A | | 70 | 53 | 75% |
| Totals | 484 | 1,196 | 65% | 1,893 | 1,219 | 64% | 1,862 | 1,274 | 68% |

* SMCC amount of pledges in 2006 is estimated.

Safety Award. The Active Balanced Community Initiative was awarded a Youth Safety Award of \$1,000 by the Allstate Foundation and National Organizations for Youth Safety for conducting an “innovative campaign promoting safe teen driving – the I Pledged Campaign.” ABC was one of 50 projects nationwide to share in the \$50,000 in awards.

ABC / BARJ Presentations. On July 30, 2008, a presentation was made to the Monroe Kiwanis Club. On August 26, 2008, a presentation was made to the North Kiwanis Club, and on September 25, 2008, a presentation was made to the Exchange Club.

Restorative Justice Training. April Corie is continuing to pursue the development of the training. The curriculum will include the BARJ philosophy, an overview of typical teenage development, and alternative solutions and treatment approaches. The training will be web-based and include both interactive instruction and comprehension testing. The web-based approach will allow employees, professionals, students, and community members to complete the training at times that are convenient to their schedules. The web-based approach is more efficient and affordable than hosting multiple face-to-face trainings.

IV. Civic Engagement: Enhance the opportunities for youth to be involved in the community.

Develop Civic Engagement Opportunities. Opportunities for involving youth in the community continue to be explored. Donna Cherba is chairing the Civic Engagement workgroup to develop regular opportunities. Support and referral of youth through the Probation Department is appreciated.

In January, the Community Foundation of Monroe County awarded \$600 to provide a ceramic art project for the youth at the Monroe County Youth Center. On March 20, 2008, Michaleen Karry from Paint Your Masterpiece provided technical assistance as the youth painted 40 coffee mugs, which were given to the residents of Fairview during a visit by eight youth on May 23, 2008. Their creations were amazing, and pictures are posted on the website.

Under the guidance of Marge Waltz, the youth at the Youth Center participated in the 2008 Big Read, and on March 16, 2008, six youth attended the play, To Kill a Mockingbird. On April 16, 2008, 12 youth attended the Wayne State University one-act play at the La-Z-Boy Center.

Several youth from the Youth Center participated in Elder Beerman’s community days coupon sale and held a Spring Garage Sale to raise activity funds for the youth.

Four youth participated in an outdoor clean-up project on April 18, 2008 at Creekside Village.

Four youth participated in the distribution of water to people walking during the Relay for Life in June at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

Six youth from the Youth Enrichment Program and Probation Department marched in the **Fair Parade with the War** of 1812 group.

A grant for \$625 was awarded from the Community Foundation of Monroe County to provide scholarships to the summer **Creativity Camps** at Paint Your Masterpiece. Although ten youth from families who have low incomes were provided this opportunity, we were able to identify only three children so the funds received totaled \$187.50. The three girls participated in the camp during the week of August 11, 2008.

Book Club. The Monroe County Library System received a grant through the American Library Association and Youth Adult Library Services Association for the Great Stories Club (funded by Oprah's Angel Network) in the Spring of 2008 to conduct Book Club at the Monroe County Youth Center. The Committee's choices for the Great Story Club were: Tyrell, by Coe Booth, Hole in My Life, by Jack Gantos, and Sold by Patricia McCormick. Sheree Beaudry, Youth Services Technician at Ellis Branch, facilitated the Book Club through Marge Waltz's class. The reception was awesome and the MCYC Book Club was formed – per the request of the youth.

The Monroe County Human Service Collaborative Network granted \$300 to the Monroe County Library System to purchase five books for the Summer: The Rag and Bone Shop by Robert Cormier, The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin, Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson, Looking for Alaska by John Green, and Go Ask Alice by Anonymous. Book Club was held

following yoga on Monday nights at the Youth Center. There were 18 participants, and several of the youth commented that these are the first books that they have ever read. Book Club was featured in an article, "Teens Turn the Page" in the MONROE EVENING NEWS on August 29, 2009. Donations from the community were requested through the article. The Monroe Rotary provided a donation; a presentation is being made to the Dundee Rotary.

Community Impact dollars (\$800) were provided to continue **Book Club in the Fall** at both the Youth Enrichment Program (YEP) and Youth Center. In October, the YEP began reading the book, Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson, in which the author paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. Touching Spirit Bear is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy or lead to healing.

Plans are to begin on November 12, 2008, with America by E.R. Frank. Additional grant applications have been submitted to the Monroe County ISD, the Jif and Smuckers' Feed the Need to Read Contest, and the Dollar General Store for on-going support.

A **ceramic soup bowl project** was again conducted this October at both the Youth Center and Youth Enrichment Program in support of Homeless Awareness Week. Youth created their own bowl and then wrote about their experience, noting their appreciation for the opportunity to express themselves and to help out those less fortunate. The bowls will be sold or auctioned at the Homeless Awareness Week opening ceremony on November 9, 2008 at Café Classics beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Continue Girls' Circles. Judy Thomas and Cheryl Beck conducted an eight-week session in February and March at the United Way of Monroe County. A ten-week session is being held this Fall, which began on October 2 and runs through December 11, 2008.

Develop Other Venues to Provide Girls' Circles. The Soroptimist International Club of Monroe County sent two of its members to training in April 2008. A staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters also attended the training. As a result, a Girls' Circle began at Manor Elementary on October 16, 2008. The session topic is "friendship" and runs for eight weeks. Sixteen girls from 4th and 5th grades are participating.

Opportunities for Developing Self-Awareness / Life Skills. An eight-week yoga class was conducted by Kimberly and Nick Searl in the Summer of 2007 with youth at the Monroe County Youth Center. Flexibility, conditioning, self-awareness and self-control were important aspects of the program, and each session ended with a share circle during which the youth reviewed a handout on such topics as emotional and social intelligence, choices, and values.

Because of the success of the initial class, a **weekly yoga class** continues, first on Sunday evenings and now on Monday evenings. Attendance averages between 8 and 12 youth and is based on voluntary attendance. Through these classes, youth are provided an opportunity to exercise, but more importantly to practice self-control and improve their self-awareness.